

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/862,834

Applicant(s)

AOKI ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

ANH H DO

2624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment on 11/08/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-48.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 08 November 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 12/27/2004
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


ANH HONG DO
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments, see Remarks (page 14, paragraphs 1 and 2), filed 11/8/2004, with respect to claim 21 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The objection of claim 21 has been withdrawn.

Drawings

2. The drawings were received on 11/08/2004. These drawings are acceptable.
3. Claims 1-48 are allowed.
4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
 - * Claim 21 has been amended to overcome the objection;
 - * The drawing has changed to include "Related Art" ion Figure 1;
 - * The present invention provides a new method and apparatus for transmitting image data, which is able to maintain the quality of a transmitted image substantially the same as that of one's own image and to realize communication in a state where eye contact is maintained (specification, page 4, lines 2-11).
Particularly, the new method and apparatus comprise the following features, which the prior art taken either singly or in combination does not teach:

- making adjustment so that the target image to be transmitted from the captured image substantially fully fills the imager frame; and compressing and transmitting the adjusted image data in the image frame (see independent claims 1, 25 and 45);

- making adjustment so that the target image to be transmitted from the captured image has a preset size; and compressing and transmitting the adjusted image data in the image frame (see independent claims 11, 35 and 46);

- displaying at least image data of a user on a display screen among a plurality of terminals and transmitting at least image data while displaying received image data on the display screen; and capturing an image including a target image of a user to be transmitted from substantially the center of the display screen (see independent claims 21 and 47);

- displaying the image data at one of an upper portion or lower portion of the display screen from the substantially center portion of the display screen serving as the capturing portion and displaying the content at the other portion (see independent claims 22 and 48).

Contact Information

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Art Unit: 2624

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ANH H DO whose telephone number is 571-272-7433. The examiner can normally be reached on 5/4-9.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, DAVID K MOORE can be reached on 571-272-7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

April 04, 2005.



ANH HONG DO
PRIMARY EXAMINER